

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

UDALL, Tom (Democrat)
Representative, 3rd District, New Mexico
Elected 1998 to the 106th Congress



BACKGROUND

Born: Tucson, Arizona - 18 May 1948

Home: Santa Fe, New Mexico

Marital Status: Married (Jill) - 1 stepchild

Religion: Unspecified

Education: Prescott College, BA, 1970; Cambridge, BLL, 1975; Univ of New Mexico, JD, 1977

Military: None

Profession: Lawyer

Political: Assistant US Attorney, 1978-81; sought Democratic nomination for US House, 1982; ran for US House, 1988; New Mexico Attorney General, 1991-8. Defeated Rep Bill Redmond (R) in general election with 53% of the vote. Reelected in 2000 with 68% of the vote and ran unopposed in 2002.

Rep Udall's major campaign theme was environmental protection. Representing one of the poorest districts in the country, said he will also work on programs he championed as state attorney general to combat drunken driving, domestic violence, medical fraud and consumer abuse.

In the 106th Congress, during debate on an amdt to restore Selective Service funding to H.R. 2684, the FY00 VA-HUD-NASA Appropriations Bill, commented that at a time when the military services are failing to meet recruiting and retention goals, it is foolhardy and risky to eliminate the Selective Service System, a proven means of providing personnel to the Armed Forces during times of emergency. (CR, 8Sep99) Explained that a motion to recommit the DoD Auth bill was about worker safety, DoE accountability, environmental protection, and public health and safety--not the military side of the bill. Introduced legislation to establish a compensation and health care program for employees and survivors at the DoE facility in Los Alamos, NM, who have sustained hazardous substances injury. Supported S. 1515, to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.

In the 107th Congress, supported the improved security measures in the Senate bill including federalizing baggage screeners. Supported the measure in the DOD Auth Conf rpt that transferred the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons facility in Colorado to the Interior Dept as a wildlife refuge once it has been cleaned up. Said he could not support HR 5005, a bill to establish the Dept of Homeland Security if it meant weakened civil liberties for US citizens.

Additional: Cousin Mark was elected in 1998 general election to open US House Colorado 2nd district seat. Father, Stewart, served six years in House (1955-61) representing Arizona and as Interior Secretary for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. Uncle Morris ("Mo"), Mark's father, served in House (1961-91) representing Arizona. Oregon Sen Gordon H. Smith (R) is a distant cousin to the Udalls. Member, Airpower Caucus.

AF Bases: Cannon AFB; Melrose AF Range

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